

THE SENTINEL



OFFICIAL SAFETY NEWSLETTER OF CIVIL AIR PATROL

HQ CAP Chief of Safety, Gary K. Woodsmall – Feb 03 Edition

E-mail: gwoodsmall@capnhq.gov

Phone: 334-953-5352

Mishap Review: The following CAP incidents were recorded last month:

Aircraft

- Hard landing with tail damage
- Aircraft tail pushed into a hangar wall
- Prop struck the tow bar during engine start - not disclosed by pilot – several flights made before damage was discovered
- Wingtip collided with hangar during taxi
- Elevator struck a parked car while aircraft was pulled from the hangar
- Wingtip collided with a weather sensor cabinet during taxi
- Engine caught fire while jump-starting the aircraft to charge the battery

Vehicle

- A CAP vehicle rear-ended by a privately owned vehicle

Bodily Injury

- A cadet's palm cut when a parade rifle was pulled from his hands
- A cadet's knee dislocated during volleyball practice

Risk Management Before Leadership Reaction Courses: I see a lot of success stories involving "Deliberate" Operational Risk Management (DORM). Deliberate means that it is accomplished well before the activity when there is plenty of time to do a thorough analysis. Deliberate ORM involves the activity leadership's experience and brainstorming to identify hazards, assess risk and develop risk controls. Then, the risk controls are built into the activity plans to become transparent to the participants, yet protect them from all foreseen danger.

Recently, an opportunity for risk management improvement has come to my attention in the area of Leadership Reaction Courses (LRCs), used to teach leadership concepts and principles primarily to our cadet force. These are sometimes referred to as Confidence Courses or Obstacle Courses. Insurance claims for injuries from LRCs are on the rise. Recent LRCs have included the following injuries: - A senior member fell from 30' and fractured his back. - A cadet fell from 10' and fractured his wrist. - Another cadet fell from 3' and dislocated his shoulder. There are several points to make in managing the risks that accompany a Leadership Reaction Course.

LRCs are normally found on military installations and are designed for soldiers that meet minimum fitness standards and have been given the "opportunity" to physically prepare for the challenge over a prescribed time. This is not necessarily the case with CAP volunteers. Physical fitness, in both the

senior and cadet ranks, will usually run the entire spectrum and will not approach the level of fitness required by our military or their confidence courses. Another variable to consider is age. Many of our senior members may no longer have the range of motion, flexibility or dexterity to negotiate the course safely. Similarly, the 12-year old may not be tall enough to reach certain elements of the course. I am not suggesting that you discriminate against individuals. I am suggesting that you discriminate against specific portions of the course that may exceed the capabilities of the course participants and present an unacceptable risk.

Most military installations insist that one of their trained individuals supervise the LRC activity. If they don't, try to arrange for the CAP activity leadership to attend a course training session before our members participate. LRCs are important to cadet development. They allow cadets to demonstrate what they've learned about critical thinking, communications, teamwork and problem solving. But, they shouldn't risk serious injury in the process. Give DORM a try -- It works -- It helps us plan for success.

Darwin Awards: Are you still not convinced that Operational Risk Management is needed? Then check out the Darwin Awards at: <http://www.darwinawards.com/>. As the website explains – “The Darwin Awards honor those who improve our gene pool by removing themselves from it in really stupid ways. We commemorate those who gave their all, adding a dose of chlorine to the pool.” “Do the Darwin Awards really represent examples of human evolution in action?” While most Darwin Awards are examples of modern day risk mismanagement, here are some historic examples that demonstrate the trend is long-term:

Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I embarked on the 3rd Crusade to recapture the Holy Land in the twelfth century. After spending days trudging across the dry summer desert, his army came upon the River Saleph. In his parched state, Frederick threw caution to the wind -- instead of his heavy armor -- and plunged into the river, whereupon he sank to the bottom and drowned.

Attila the Hun was one of the most notorious villains in history. He conquered all of Asia by 450 A.D. by destroying villages and pillaging the countryside. This bloodthirsty man died from a nosebleed on his wedding night. After feasting and toasting his own good fortune, he was too drunk to notice his nose, and he drowned in a snoutful of his own blood.

Tycho Brahe, a sixteenth-century Danish astronomer whose research helped Sir Isaac Newton devise the theory of gravity, died because he didn't make it to the bathroom in time. In that society it was considered an insult to leave the table before the banquet was over. Brahe forgot to relieve himself before the banquet began, then exacerbated matters by imbibing too much alcohol at dinner. Too polite to ask to be excused, he instead allowed his bladder to burst, which killed him slowly and painfully over the next eleven days. [DarwinAwards.com](http://www.DarwinAwards.com) © 1994-2003

“Everybody is allowed 15 minutes per day to be stupid, just don't do it in an airplane.” General James "Jimmy" Harold Doolittle